

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

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P 292304Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

FOLLOWING REPEAT NIAMEY 1658 ACTION SECSTATE
ABIDJAN EC BRUSSELS PARIS ROME 25 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 1658

AIDAC

ABIDJAN FOR COL SMITH

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS

SUBJECT:

REF: A. NIAMEY 1644; B. STATE 104524; C. NIAMEY 1504

D. NIAMEY 1502

SUMMARY: FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP AND GON OFFICIALS AND
RECENT FIELD VISITS CONFIRM URGENT CRITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR
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ADDITIONAL FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS TO HELP ASSURE MOVEMENT

OF FOOD TO HARD-TO-REACH CAMPS AND TOWNS. ACTIONS REQUESTED:
URGENT CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ASSIGNMENT OF US ARMY
TRUCK TRANSPORTATION UNIT TO NIGER, INCLUDING USING AIRLIFT,
BY JUNE 9.

1. FIELD VISITS TO DEPARTMENT OF TAHOU (TAHOUA CITY, ABALAH,
TCHIN TABARADEN, KEITA, BOUZA) AND TO DIFFA DEPARTMENT
(MAINE SOROA), PLUS CONVERSATIONS MAY 24 AND 25 WITH UNDP
AND GON OFFICIALS HAVE ESTABLISHED A CRITICAL NEED FOR MORE
FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE UNITS TO HELP ASSURE ADEQUACY OF INTERNAL
TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD STUFFS TO CAMPS AND TOWNS WHERE ACCESS IS
IMPOSSIBLE BY CONVENTIONAL TRUCKING AND WHERE SOME PREPOSITIONING
IS ESSENTIAL IF MINIMUM FOOD SUPPLIES ARE TO BE ASSURED DURING
THE RAINY SEASON.

2. THE MOFA, DIRECTOR OF CABINET, ASSURED EMBASSY/RDO
REPRESENTATIVES MAY 24 (IN MEETING WITH IG TODD) THAT U.S.
MILITARY TRUCKS AND CREWS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AND WERE AN
URGENT NEED. (THE DIRECTOR OF CABINET SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO
GO INTO THE REASONS WHY THEY HAD REJECTED THE RECENT DUTCH
OFFER (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY MAURITANIA)
BUT WE UNDERSTOOD THEM TO BE THOSE REPORTED TO US BY DJERMAKOYE
(REFTEL A).)

3. THE MINISTER OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AID TO DISTRESSED
POPULATIONS, ALI SAIBOU, ALSO CONFIRMED CRITICAL NEED IN
ANOTHER MEETING MAY 24 (ALSO WITH IG TODD). HOWEVER, SAIBOU
DID SAY GON WANTED TO KEEP U.S. PERSONNEL TO MINIMUM--ONE DRIVER
PER VEHICLE, MECHANICS, OFFICERS, ETC. SAIBOU NOTED PROBLEM
IN DIFFA HAD CAUSED HIM TO DECIDE TO MOVE 10 OF THE 30 UK
BEDFORDS TO DIFFA DEPARTMENT.

4. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING DETAILED QUESTIONS AS RAISED BY
STATE 104524 WITH MER MONDAY MAY 27.

5. DUE TO TIME ELEMENT AIRLIFT NECESSARY. WISH TO PROPOSE
ETA OF JUNE 9.

6. RECOMMEND QUALIFIED U.S. ARMY OFFICER TDY NIAMEY SOONEST
TO HELP FIRM UP PROPOSAL AND PLANS.
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HECK UNQUOTE BROWN

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Message Attributes

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